

In the Specification

Please replace the two paragraphs which extend from page 4 line 10 to page 4 line 28 with the following.

--In a first family of embodiments, the invention comprehends a personal care article having a longitudinal axis, and comprising a front portion having a front end, a second end, a first side edge, and a second side edge, and a fastener receptive area; first and second lateral sections, each having an inner portion, and an outer portion including an outer edge, the outer portion being defined between the fastener receptive area on the front portion and the outer edge of the lateral section, a releasable fastener on the inner portion of the respective lateral section having an inner edge and being portions releasably fastened to the front portion closer to the longitudinal axis than to the respective outer edge of the corresponding lateral section, the and outer portion of each lateral section being portions attached at at least one attachment site to the front portion inwardly of, but adjacent, the respective one of the first and second side edges of the front portion, the one or more of the at least one attachment sites on the corresponding outer portion, which are closest to the inner edge of the releasable fastener, being closer to the respective side edge of the front portion than to the inner edge of the releasable fastener; a back portion having a back end, a third side edge, and a fourth side edge; and a crotch portion between the front portion and the back portion. Each of the outer portions of the first and second lateral sections can be secured to one of the third and fourth side edges of the back portion to form a pant-like article having a waist opening, and first and second leg openings. Strength of the attachment of the outer portions of the lateral sections to the front portion is less than strength of the securement of the outer portions of the lateral sections to the back portion, whereby the attachments of the outer portions of the lateral sections to the front portion can be separated from the front portion without separating the securement of the first and second lateral sections from the third and fourth side edges of the back portion.

—The outer portions of the first and second lateral sections can have respective outer edges extending outwardly of the respective first and second side edges of the front portion whereby the lateral sections are directly secured to respective ones of the third and fourth side edges of the back portion, without intervening material between the lateral sections and said back portion.—

Please replace the paragraph which extends from page 11 line 28, to page 11 line 32 in the application as filed, and as amended in Amendment B, filed 01/06/03, as follows.

—Referring to FIGURE 1, attachment sites 46 should be located just inwardly of, but adjacent, side edges 23 and 25 of front portion 20, relative to the X-axis. As illustrated in FIGURES 1, 3, and 4, lateral portions 28, 29 are free from attachment to the front portion between fasteners 31A and 31B and areas adjacent side edges ~~23 and 25~~ attachment sites 46. Attachment sites 46 should be designed and constructed so that the attachment sites can be easily broken to enable adjusting the size of personal care article 10 to the size of the wearer, as desired. —

Please replace the paragraph which extends from page 12 line 15, to page 12 line 23 in the application as filed, and as amended in Amendment B, filed 01/06/03, as follows.

—FIGURES 4 and 5 illustrate another embodiment of the invention, wherein personal care article 10 uses temporary attachment of the first and second lateral sections 28 and 29 to front portion 20, as well as to each other. In this embodiment, first and second lateral sections 28 and 29 are joined to each other by a line of weakness 45 when assembled into the personal care article. Line of weakness 45 can comprise, for example, a line or lines of weakness which, when broken, define inner edges 39A and 39B (FIGURE 4) which generally correspond to inner edges 39A and 39B of FIGURES 1 and 3. Line of weakness 45 is designed and constructed to be readily broken, but only if and when desired by a wearer or caregiver, caregiver, or manufacturer. —